



JOHN L. SCOTT, SHERIFF

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July 18, 2014

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Members of the Civil Grand Jury:

**RESPONSE TO THE FINAL REPORT OF THE 2013-14  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY**

Attached is the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (Department) response to the 2013-14 Los Angeles County (County) Civil Grand Jury Report recommendations. The County's Civil Grand Jury's areas of interest specific to the Department included expansion of the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) program in the jails, relocation of inmates from the Department's Twin Towers Correctional Facility, Use of Force training for Department personnel, Inmate Life Skills training, and the expansion of Department catering services to other government entities.

Should you have questions regarding the Department's response please contact Division Director Glen Dragovich, Administrative and Training Division, at (323) 526-5191.

Sincerely,

JOHN L. SCOTT  
SHERIFF

*A Tradition of Service*

## **RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – SHERIFF

SUBJECT: 2013-2014 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 12 STEP  
PROGRAMS IN DETENTION FACILITIES

### RECOMMENDATION NO. 12.1

Daily AA meetings at all jails in Los Angeles County should be made available.

### RESPONSE

The Department concurs with this recommendation, and will continue to exert all available resources and efforts to achieve and/or exceed these expectations. The Department works very closely with the Los Angeles Hospitals and Institutions AA's Director Greg Baldwin and his team to ensure a coordinated response to meet the needs of the County's inmates. For example, during the month of March 2014, with the assistance of over 326 civilian volunteers, the Department assembled 137 AA panels to provide much needed services to over 3,441 inmates. There were occasions at several County jail facilities where the classes were canceled due to security issues; however, the Department is working with Director Baldwin to improve coverage at all of the Department's custody facilities.

### RECOMMENDATION NO. 12.2

The daily AA meetings which have been put into place at the jails should continue, and the number of meetings should be expanded to accommodate inmates who wish to attend.

### RESPONSE

The Department concurs with these recommendations, and will continue to exert all available resources and efforts to achieve and/or exceed these expectations. Refer to 12.1 for additional information.

### RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.1

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department needs to relocate inmates from Twin Towers to facilities with lower populations which can accept additional inmates.

### RESPONSE

The Department fully supports this concept. The Department is working diligently with the County's District Attorney Jackie Lacey and the entire Justice Community to identify alternatives to custody to reduce population pressures. As indicated in the County's

Civil Grand Jury's Final Report, a substantial Diversion plan is critically needed. The only existing facility that can be utilized to relocate inmates to reduce crowding is the Department's Pitchess Detention Center (PDC) East Facility.

#### RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.3

Retrain the Sheriff's deputies and their commanding officers on the proper use of force.

#### RESPONSE

The Department concurs with this recommendation. In January 2013 the Department revised the existing Use of Force policy. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors authorized additional staff and overtime funding to increase custody personnel training. New classes, such as: Use of Force/Ethics, Jail Specific Restraint Techniques, Use of Force Investigations for Supervisors, Interacting with Mentally Ill Inmates, and Cell Extraction training have been updated and are being provided to custody personnel.

#### RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.4

Continue the EBI/M.E.R.I.T. and vocational life skills training.

#### RESPONSE

The Department concurs with this recommendation, and will work to ensure its continuance. Currently, the Education Based Incarceration/Maximizing Education Reaching Individuals Transformation Program (EBI/M.E.R.I.T.) is offered at five custody facilities. A funding request to the Board to expand these services into the evening hours has been submitted. The limited classroom space throughout Custody Division limits the Department's ability to expand educational programming during the morning hours. For additional information, refer to response 15.5.

#### RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.5

Offer the EBI/M.E.R.I.T. and vocational life skills training at all major Sheriff Jail facilities.

#### RESPONSE

The Department concurs with this recommendation. As of this writing, the Department is offering EBI/M.E.R.I.T. and/or vocational life skills training at all County jails and has piloted an EBI course in a station jail in the Antelope Valley.

#### RECOMMENDATION NO. 15.6

Expand the catering services to outside groups including courts and other municipal and government groups.

#### RESPONSE

Since the initiation of the Grand Jury report in November 2013 the Department has been successful in expanding food delivery services. The Department now provides food services to the Pomona Police Department, and we are in the process of securing contracts with the Inglewood Police Department and Redondo Beach Police Department. While the Department continues to explore additional revenue generating opportunities, further expansion of food delivery services beyond this capacity may require a substantial financial commitment to new infrastructure and staffing.